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HARMONY OF THE BIBLE WITH SCIENCE.*

This work of Dr. Kinns has been carefully verified by specialists in the various sciences. It is interesting to see how closely the agreement between Geology and the Bible can justly be made out. The author does not carry the Nebular Theory quite so far as Guyot in his work on "Creation." He carries it through the first day of the Mosaic account. Yet even this is not necessary. It may not apply to more than the first verse, since the introduction of light in the Mosaic account may refer to the appearance of light at the surface of the earth, just as the introduction of the sun, moon and stars on the fourth day may, as Dr. Kinns holds, refer to the becoming visible of the heavenly bodies through the scattering mists which up to the end of the carboniferous period had largely concealed them from sight on the surface of the earth. The first appearance of light might have been from the earth's own photosphere. Gradually, as this photosphere diminished and the heavy vapors became less, the sun, whose light had also more or less penetrated to the surface, became visible, and the great change of climate, of fauna and flora took place in and after the permian period, as pointed out by our author. However this may be, it does not affect the general argument. The correspondence between the Bible account of creation and science is still complete. The author is no believer in evolutionism, as he finds abundant and clear evidences against it in the facts revealed by geology. Aside from geology the book contains some interesting astronomical statements and illustrations, and addenda chapters on Assyrian Antiquities, the Signs of the Zodiac, the Scheme of Redemption and the Efficacy of Prayer. It contains also a long list of names of eminent scientists who hold to the agreement between science and religion. It professes to give the latest results of science. It is written in a spirit of Christian devotion. It is considerably popularized by story and anecdote, and perhaps on that account somewhat profuse, yet interesting and instructive to the general reader.

J. A. EDGREN.

PENTATEUCH CRITICISM FOR THE PEOPLE.†

The two books whose titles are given below differ most widely in their standpoint and aim, while they are alike in this that both seek to make their arguments and conclusions within the comprehension of the average thoughtful mind. Both are intended for the general reader of the Scriptures. Mr. Newton addresses the "intelligent and thoughtful" in our churches, and seeks to spread an "intelligent conception of the Bible" through the laity. This conception is that of "the composite structure of the Pentateuch," "the groundlessness of the traditional theory of its Mosaic origin," "the growth of the Pentateuch,"

* **THE HARMONY OF THE BIBLE WITH SCIENCE; or Moses and Geology.** By Samuel Kinns, Ph.D., Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society; Principal of the College, Highbury New Park. 508 p.

† **THE BOOK OF THE BEGINNINGS.** A study of Genesis, with an introduction to the Pentateuch. By R. Heber Newton, Rector of All Souls' Prot. Epis. Ch., N. Y. New York: *G. P. Putnam's Sons*. 12mo. Pp. xv., 311. Paper. 40 cents.

A VINDICATION OF THE MOSAIC ORIGIN OF THE PENTATEUCH. By Charles Elliott, DD., Prof. in Lafayette College, Easton Pa. Cincinnati: *Walden & Stowe*. 12mo. Pp. 273. \$1.00.

"the primeval sagas" of the Fall, of Noah, &c., "the traditions of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, and of Joseph."

Dr. Elliott hopes that his "treatise may prove useful to ministers and students of the Bible who have not access to strictly critical and exhaustive treatises on the Pentateuch." He frankly and fairly states "the various theories of the composition and authorship of the Pentateuch," "the arguments urged in favor of the various hypotheses," "the expositions and theories which assign the Pentateuch to a later date than the time of Moses," and finally the proofs of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch both internal and external. Two hundred pages are given to the various theories and thirty to the evidence in favor of the Mosaic authorship, so that no one can deny that he means to give a full statement of the views of his opponents.

Mr. Newton's literary style is far more polished and elegant than that of Dr. Elliott. His book is pleasanter reading. The latter is strictly argumentative, and betrays the professorial manner. It demands study. There is a vagueness and extravagance in the statements of the former, and a slightly apologetic tone in the explanations of the latter, which are unpleasant and fairly open to criticism. The two books will act as a kind of antidote to each other, and we earnestly hope that none will take sides with Mr. Newton before they have read and mastered Dr. Elliott's vindication of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.*

This volume covers the Books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings. In the case of each book there are furnished an Introduction, a Translation, and Notes. Each feature of the volume deserves separate notice.

In the *Introduction* one section is devoted to "the value of these books as a part of divine revelation;" a second to the "grounds for the extermination of the idolatrous races;" and five sections to the composition, authorship, sources and dates of these books.

The value of these books, as containing most excellent homiletical material, is clearly and forcibly brought out. The grounds of the extermination of the idolatrous races are "sought (1) in the purpose of God in giving this land to Abraham and his descendants; (2) in the character of the inhabitants, and in the obstacles it opposed to the attainment of that end." A vivid description is given of the debasing, corrupt, and licentious worship which confronted the Israelites when they came to take possession of the land given to them by divine authority.

The book of Joshua was written by an eye-witness and actor in the scenes narrated, or compiled from contemporaneous documents. The most natural supposition is that Joshua himself was its author, or that it was prepared under his direction. The Book of Judges, irregular in structure, not a consecutive narrative, rather a series of chronicles, is thoroughly historical. It was compiled in the times of Samuel from contemporaneous records of the events narrated. The date of Ruth is uncertain. The Books of Samuel are authentic history, drawn

* THE BOOKS OF JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, 1 AND 2 SAMUEL, 1 AND 2 KINGS. The common version, revised, with an introduction and occasional notes. By Thomas J. Conant. Pp. xxv., 328. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. Price \$2.00, postpaid. For sale by F. G. Thearle, 151 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.